

**DESCRIPTION:** Irish Canyon is a relatively remote and highly scenic canyon. It is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) because of its unique geology, scenery, plant species, and cultural resources. Twelve of the twenty-two geologic formations found in the eastern end of the Uinta Mountains occur here. The beginning of the canyon is not more than 50 yards wide with steep walls with layers of red, green, and gray. Elevations range from 6,100 to 8,636 feet. Such outlaws as Butch Cassidy and the wild bunch, Matt Warner, Isom Dart, and others spent much of their time in the Browns Park area during the early 1900s.



There is an interpretive exhibit of ancient petroglyphs at the south entrance to Irish Canyon along with a short interpretive hiking trail. There are other unmarked

cultural sites in and around the area.

Archeological sites are special places that tell the story of our past. These fragile irreplaceable heritage resources may not be readily visible so be aware and practice Leave No Trace principles.

At the north end of the Canyon is a small campground with 6 sites with tables, fire pits, and one pit toilet. There are no developed trails, but hiking opportunities are available to the west to Limestone Ridge and Cold Spring Mountain, and to the east to Vermillion Canyon and the colorful badlands along Vermillion Creek. Primitive roads to the east and west provide excellent mountain biking opportunities to view the region particularly on Cold Spring Mountain. Motorized and mechanized travel is limited to designated routes marked with signs.

Wildlife includes mule deer and pronghorn, and occasionally other inhabitants such as coyote, badger, fox, and marmot. Many species of upland birds inhabit the area including golden eagle, turkey vulture, Gray Jay, dove, and chukar. This semi-arid country supports sagebrush and pinyon-juniper woodlands with several rare plant communities.

Summers are generally warm and dry with cool nights. There is no water available in the area and the nearest gas station is in Maybell, so plan appropriately for both supplies and weather.

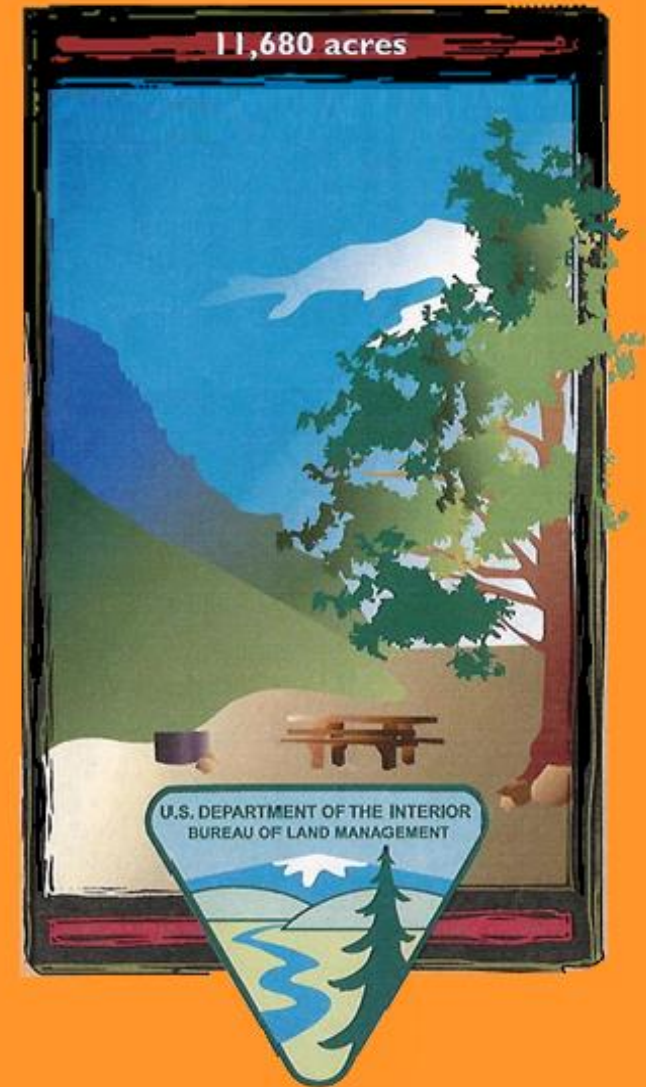
**ACCESS:** From Maybell, Colorado on U.S. Highway 40 turn northwest onto Colorado Highway 318 to Moffat County Road 10N (41 miles), which runs through Irish Canyon (4.5 miles from Colorado 318).

**MAPS:** BLM Canyon of Lodore Color Quads (scale = 1:100,000) are available from BLM offices. USGS Topographic Maps (scale = 1:24,000) – Canyon of Lodore, is available from USGS, Box 25046, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225, phone (303) 236-5900 or at: <http://store.usgs.gov>



## Irish Canyon ACEC

11,680 acres



For more information contact the  
BLM Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street, Craig, Colorado 81625  
Phone (970) 826-5000  
<http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en.html>



